

*Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today applauded the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its decision to more closely investigate how wastewater produced by hydraulic fracturing is being treated in Pennsylvania. The EPA instructed the state to perform testing for radioactivity at drinking water intake plants within 30 days. EPA also asked for data and documents relating to permits issued by the state to treatment plants handling fracking wastewater. These documents will be reviewed by EPA to ensure compliance with federal law.*

*During a hearing before the U.S. House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee last week, Hinchey asked EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to more closely scrutinize fracking wastewater treatment after reports in The New York Times revealed the contamination threat was much greater than previously understood. In February, Hinchey wrote Jackson to call for immediate monitoring of radioactivity levels at sewage treatment plants handling hydraulic fracturing wastewater and drinking water intakes near drilling activities.*

"I applaud EPA Administrator Jackson's decision to take a closer look at how hydraulic fracturing wastewater is being treated and handled in Pennsylvania. Requiring the state to test for radioactive and chemical contamination near drinking water intakes and reviewing the permits which have been issued for the disposal of fracking wastewater, which I requested last week, are absolutely the right steps to take. The public needs to know what is happening to this wastewater and what contaminants may or may not be reaching their drinking water systems. Administrator Jackson's announcement is most welcome."